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Docket No. 46146-C2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Applicants: Rhode al.

Examiner: Dr. A. DeCloux

Serial No: 09/848,164

Art Unit: 1644

Filed: May 3, 2001

For: MHC MOLECULES AND USES THEREOF

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated October 23, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement. In particular, it is believed that multiple groups, as defined in the Office Action, can be examined together without undue burden.

Among other things, the present application is a continuation of two parent applications that have issued as U.S. Patents 5,869,270 and 6,309,645. It is believed that searches for the present application will be facilitated by the searches already conducted for those issued cases. Additionally, U.S. Patent 5,869,270 includes claims to MHC molecules, DNA constructs and methods.

It is thus requested that multiple groups be considered together at this time, such as Groups V and VI, as those groups are defined in the Office Action.

To provide a complete response, Applicants elect Group V, which includes claims 53-55, 57-63, 66-69 and 71.76, as that Group is defined in the Office Action.

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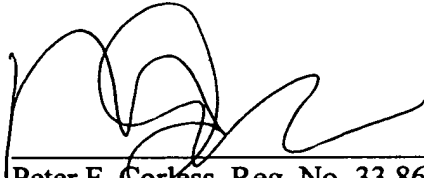
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Early examination and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Corless', is written over a horizontal line.

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